

**FILED**

APRIL 27, 2005

**NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD  
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:

Administrative Action

GALEN CENTENO

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter was opened before the Medical Practitioner Review Panel (the "Panel") upon the Panel's receipt of notice that a settlement had been entered in a civil malpractice action brought against respondent involving care provided to patient M. The malpractice action was predicated upon allegations that respondent failed to provide decubitus care, resulting in the need for surgical intervention.

The Panel reviewed available information to include hospital records for patient M. and testimony offered by respondent when he appeared before the Panel on February 20, 2004, represented by Michael Keating, Esq. At the conclusion of its investigation, the Panel found that patient M. was at high risk for decubiti, respondent failed to examine the patient on a daily basis, the examinations which Dr. Centeno testified he performed for patient M. were inadequate (for reasons to include respondent's repeated failure to examine M.'s skin, or roll the patient over, failure to review the nurse's notes indicating a sacral decubitis ulcer, failure to look at the ulcer when reviewing the patient's medications which included Silvadene, alerting him that the patient

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had a pressure ulcer, and failure to document his treatments). Further, respondent failed to timely follow-up an order for a special clinitron bed, and failed to aggressively treat the ulcer once he was aware of it.

Respondent also testified regarding his activities as a residency director, that he sees hospitalized patients only twice per week unless they are in critical condition, relying on the residents to see patients daily. He does not document his examinations in the patient's chart, again relying upon the residents. The Panel found it unacceptable practice and below the standard of care to see patients only twice per week as attending physicians' duties include daily visits by the teaching attending of record, with daily attending progress notes to document attending involvement in patient care and resident oversight. This was particularly important as respondent is teaching and setting an example for residents.

The State Board of Medical Examiners reviewed the report and recommendations of the Panel, and concurred with the Panel's recommendation that cause for disciplinary action existed in this matter against respondent, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d) and 45:1-21(h), based on his having committed repeated acts of negligence and based on his failure to maintain medical records that met the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:35-6.5. The Board being satisfied that the within Order will adequately protect the public

health, safety and welfare, and being satisfied that good cause exists for the entry of this order,

IT IS ON THIS 13<sup>th</sup> DAY OF April, 2005

**ORDERED AND AGREED:**

1. Respondent Galen Centeno, M.D., is hereby formally reprimanded for having committed repeated acts of negligence indicated by the findings above.


2. Simultaneously with the signing of this Order, respondents shall pay a civil penalty of \$5,000.00 and costs of \$1000.94 by certified check or money order made out to the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey and forwarded to Mr. Bill Roeder, Board of Medical Examiners, P.O. Box 185, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

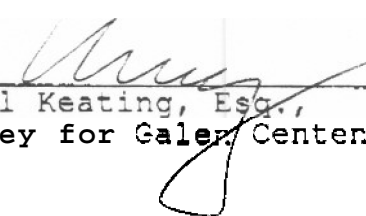
By: 

Bernard Robins, M.D.  
Board President

I hereby give my consent to the Board to enter this Order as a matter of record, and agree to comply with and be bound by the terms of this Order.

  
Galen Centeno, M.D.

I Consent to the form and entry of this Order,

  
Michael Keating, Esq.,  
Attorney for Galen Centeno, M.D.